

Marine Weather Guide

Environment Canada's Marine Weather Services for the Pacific Coast

NEW Marine Program effective June 26, 2008

FORECAST PRODUCTS

The **Regular Forecast** includes detailed forecast wind speed and direction, weather and visibility, and any wind and freezing spray warnings in effect for the current and following day.

The **Extended Forecast** includes only a general description of expected wind conditions for the period from the end of the Regular Forecast to the end of the fifth day of the forecast period (days three to five).

The **Technical Marine Synopsis** gives a general picture of the position, intensity and motion of the main weather features (lows, highs, fronts).

The **Marine Weather Statement** informs of non-severe, but potentially hazardous, conditions and/or significant weather features expected in the Extended Forecast.

The **Wave Height Forecast** describes the expected *significant* wave height rather than the *maximum* wave height. Significant wave height is defined as the *average of the highest one-third of all waves*. Wave heights are described in metres and are measured from trough to crest.

The **NAVTEX Forecast** is a shortened version of the marine forecast products; it is transmitted by the Canadian Coast Guard and primarily intended for international users in Canadian waters.

MARINE FORECAST CONTENT

Wind Speed and Direction: The *wind speed* is the average wind that is expected over the open water, given in units of knots (1 kt = 1.852 km/h). *Wind direction* refers to the direction *from* which the wind is blowing (based on true north and not on magnetic bearings). It should also be noted that with the rugged Pacific coastline, considerable *local variations* from the forecast winds are possible.

Weather and Visibility: A brief description of the weather is included in the forecast when visibility is expected to be reduced to near or below one nautical mile (1.852 km).

Freezing Spray: Is mentioned in the forecast if conditions are likely to result in ice buildup on exposed vessel surfaces.

Air Temperature: Is included in the forecast only if temperatures are expected to be at or below 0° Celsius.

www.weatheroffice.gc.ca

CONTACT US

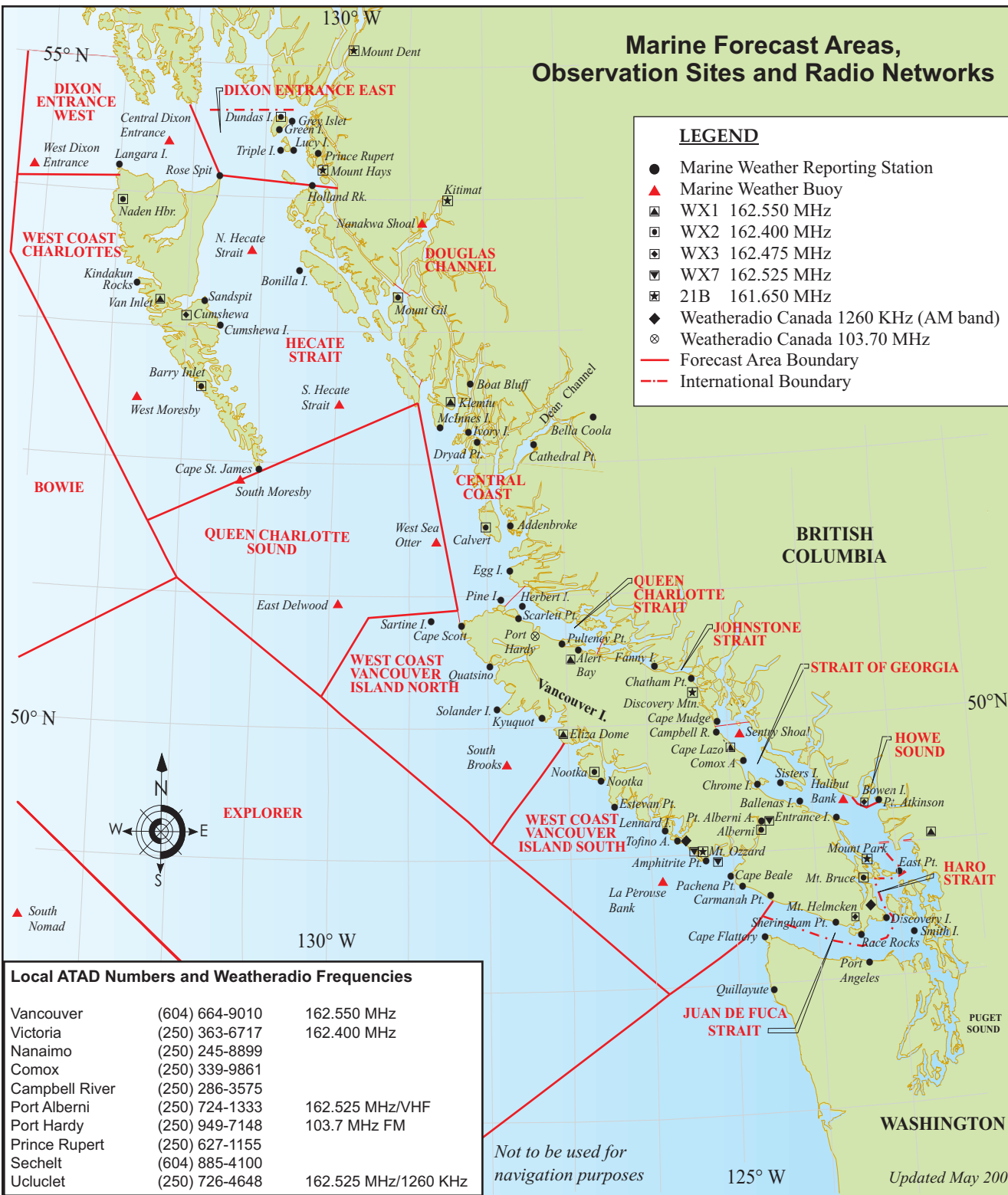
For general inquiries, comments and to report equipment outages, please call: **1-877-789-7733**

e-mail: weather.info.meteo@ec.gc.ca

or visit:

www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/mainmenu/contact_us_e.html

Marine Forecast Areas, Observation Sites and Radio Networks



LEGEND

- Marine Weather Reporting Station
- ▲ Marine Weather Buoy
- WX1 162.550 MHz
- WX2 162.400 MHz
- ⊠ WX3 162.475 MHz
- ▼ WX7 162.525 MHz
- ⊞ 21B 161.650 MHz
- ◆ Weatheradio Canada 1260 KHz (AM band)
- ⊗ Weatheradio Canada 103.70 MHz
- Forecast Area Boundary
- - - International Boundary

Local ATAD Numbers and Weatheradio Frequencies		
Vancouver	(604) 664-9010	162.550 MHz
Victoria	(250) 363-6717	162.400 MHz
Nanaimo	(250) 245-8899	
Comox	(250) 339-9861	
Campbell River	(250) 286-3575	
Port Alberni	(250) 724-1333	162.525 MHz/VHF
Port Hardy	(250) 949-7148	103.7 MHz FM
Prince Rupert	(250) 627-1155	
Sechelt	(604) 885-4100	
Ucluelct	(250) 726-4648	162.525 MHz/1260 KHz

FORECAST ISSUE TIMES

All issue times are Pacific Standard or Daylight Saving Time (PST/PDT). Updated forecasts are issued as required.

- Regular Forecast and Technical Marine Synopsis:** 4 am; 10:30 am; 4 pm; 9:30 pm
- Extended Forecast:** 4 am; 4 pm
- Wave Height Forecast:** 2 am; 2 pm

OBTAINING FORECASTS

[Environment Canada's Weather Website:](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)

www.weatheroffice.gc.ca

Forecast Consultation Service (user fees apply):

- 1-900-565-6565 (direct billing) or
- 1-888-292-2222 (cellphone access, credit card billing)

Weatheradio:

Complete Environment Canada public and marine forecasts and warnings broadcast 24 hours a day (see map opposite). For more details, visit www.msc.ec.gc.ca/msb/weatheradio.

Canadian Coast Guard's Continuous Marine Broadcast (CMB):

Environment Canada's marine weather forecasts and warnings (see map opposite). For information on Radio Aids to Marine Navigation, visit www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca.

Automated Telephone Answering Devices (ATADs):

Free recordings of public and marine forecasts and warnings (see map opposite for local telephone numbers).

MARINE WEATHER WARNINGS

Wind Warnings are included in the Regular Forecast when wind speeds are expected to be in the following categories:

- **Strong Wind Warning 20-33 knots**
- **Gale Warning 34-47 knots**
- **Storm Warning 48-63 knots**
- **Hurricane Force Wind Warning 64 knots or greater**

(Issued only for southern inner coastal waters between Good Friday and Remembrance Day)

(Refers to wind speed and does not imply that a hurricane is occurring or expected to occur)

- **Freezing Spray Warnings** are included in the Regular Forecast when ice is expected to build up at a rate of **0.7 cm per hour or greater**.
- **Localized Warnings** are issued as separate bulletins for any hazardous weather that requires immediate attention. Examples include **water spout or squall warnings**.

Not to be used for navigation purposes

125° W

Updated May 2008